Security Force. The Amendment Act has been framed for the speedy trial of persons accused of unlawful interference with civil aviation operations.

ITDC Financed Guest House at Rameshwaram

7717. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of CIVI AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ITDC Financed guest house at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu is kept idle without any maintenance and administration;

(b) what is the total amount invested on this guest house and when the construction was completed; and

(c) what are the reasons to keep it unused and allowed to dilapidate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) ITDC does not have or operate any unit/guest house at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vayudoot service in the North Eastern Region

7718 SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Vayudoot service was initially meant for the North Eastern Region only;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for expanding the Vayudoot network to almost all parts of the country thereby crippling the service;

(c) whether Government are aware that Vayudoot service in this region is not operation at present;

(d) the name of the airport in the North East where Vayudoot service is operating at present and also the airports which have not yet seen a single aircraft since their inauguration; and

(e) whether any new scheme has been chalked out to improve air services in the North Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot Ltd. was initially set up in 1981 to connect inaccessible areas in the North East and other regions of the country.

(b) The network of Vayudoot operations was expanded in later years to make the company commercially viable.

(c) and (d). Vayudoot has been operating to the following stations in the North Eastern Region:—

1. Silchar (Assam)
2. Lilabari (Assam)
3. Dibrugarh (Assam)
4. Guwahati (Assam)
5. Agartala (Tripura)
6. Aizwal (Mizoram)
7. Ziro (Arunachal Pradesh)
8. Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh)
9. Dimapur (Nagaland)
10. Shilong (Meghalaya)

The operation of Vayudoot to some of the above and other stations had remained suspended for different periods owing to a variety of reasons.

(e) Under the existing guidelines, scheduled domestic airlines are required to deploy 10 per cent of the capacity deployed on Category I routes, on routes in Category II, which include North East region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

It has also been decided to connect less accessible towns of North Eastern States through helicopter service, to be operated by Pawan Hans Ltd., initially on a limited scale, with two helicopters, to serve interior areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Air India agreement with foreign airlines for Haj pilgrims

7719. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has entered into an agreement with a foreign Airlines to send Haj pilgrims to Jeddah and back in 1995.

(b) if so, what is the name of that Airline, what amount in terms of Indian rupee that company had mentioned in the quotation to be charged per head;

(c) for what amount in terms of Indian rupee per pilgrim Air India had contracted to pay to this foreign Airlines; and

(d) what are the details of the overheads earmarked by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air India has entered into an agreement with M/s. Tower Air to ferry Haj pilgrims to and from India. M/s. Tower Air had quoted Rs. 1,87,425 per block hour covering Aircraft hire, Crew, all Maintenance support, Hull/third party and Insurance and fuel with condition of guaranteed utilisation of 500 block hours in a month. M/s. Tower Air was not required to quote the fare per head.

(c) The amount payable to M/s. Tower Air works out to Rs. 14962.50 per pilgrim for round trip.

(d) The expenditure of overheads (passenger legal liability insurance, landing, handling, navigation, catering on board, staff costs and other allowances) to be incurred by Air India is approximately Rs. 7.17 crores.

Private airlines operating on profit earning routes

7720. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for the private Airlines being allowed to operate mainly on profit earing routes; and

(b) the reasons for they not being asked to operate their Airlines on uneconomic routes along with the profit earning routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) In accordance with the guidelines issued on 1.3.94, the scheduled domestic operators are required to deploy at least 10 percent of the capacity deployed on trunk/brand routes, on routes in the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. Of the capacity so deployed, at least 10 percent has to be within the region itself.

Projects for Development of Tourist Centres in Orissa

7721. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the number of projects under implementation in different tourist centres in Orissa;

(b) whether there is a need to expedite the Completion of these projects in order to attract the domestic as well as foreign tourists; and

(c) if so, the step taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The following projects